

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Among

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

And

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Veterans' Employment and Training (VETS/DOL), agree that the successful readjustment of veterans into civilian life is a mutual responsibility and concern. To this end, SBA, VETS/DOL and VA (collectively, the Parties), pursuant to Title VI of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-50), agree to coordinate "vocational rehabilitation services, technical and managerial assistance, and financial assistance to veterans, including service-disabled veterans, seeking to employ themselves by forming or expanding small business concerns." P.L. 106-50 also requires the Parties to make "recommendations for expanding existing programs or establishing new programs to provide such services or assistance to such veterans."

SCOPE

The Parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to coordinate and maximize the services they provide to veterans, including vocational rehabilitation services, technical and managerial assistance and financial assistance to veterans.

The Parties agree to improve networking efforts for all veterans, particularly service-disabled veterans, by enabling local representatives and resources to take a team approach to providing services.

The Parties will encourage local, and where appropriate, national participation in training workshops, meetings, seminars and other activities for the exchange of information, to discuss entrepreneurship issues and strategies, and to promote entrepreneurship efforts of veterans, particularly service-disabled veterans. The Parties understand that particular training events may be cosponsorships necessitating compliance with § 8(b)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act.

RESPONSIBILITIES

SBA will:

- Participate with the other Parties in coordinating technical, managerial and financial assistance to veterans, including service-disabled veterans, interested in forming or expanding small business concerns.
- Establish and maintain a management information system that will enable SBA to accurately report, on an annual basis to Congress, the number of small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.
- Provide technical and managerial assistance to veterans, including service-disabled veterans, interested in forming or expanding small business concerns by, among other things, utilizing its website, the SBA Action Desk, broadcast e-mail, field offices, SBA website *Small Business Classroom*, and SBA resource partners, including the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Small Business Development Centers (SDBC's), Business Information Centers (BIC's), Tribal Business Information Centers (TBIC's), One-Stop Capital Shop (OSCS) and Women's Business Centers (WBC's).
- Provide information upon request to veteran-owned businesses, including service-disabled veterans, on the 8(a) Business Development Program, the Small Disadvantaged Business Program, the HUBZone Program and other SBA procurement programs.

VA will:

- Participate with the other Parties in coordinating vocational rehabilitation services and technical, managerial, and financial assistance to veterans, including service-disabled veterans who seek employment through forming or expanding small business concerns.
- Utilize various electronic and print media to inform veterans, VA staff, and State Veterans Affairs resources of the existence of this program and the various services available.
- In consultation with VETS/DOL and SBA, identify small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans in the United States. VA will inform each small business concern in the United States, in consultation with SBA and VETS/DOL, that information on Federal procurement programs, including the 8(a) Business Development Program, the Small Disadvantaged Business Program, and the HUBZone Program, is available from SBA.

VETS/DOL will:

- Maintain and continue to improve its existing website on credentialing to assist Military and Veterans transitioning into the civilian sector. Many military personnel are unaware that they may not be able to practice in their chosen field without first obtaining a license or certification. The purpose of the website is to better prepare current and former military personnel for civilian credentialing by providing them with an easily accessible, consolidated source of information on credentialing requirements and customized information that is tailored to individual needs. The website went online January 1, 2000. Additionally, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) continues to work with the employment and training community, with employers and unions, and with Federal and state licensing agencies to make the certification and licensing process work for veterans.
- Utilize various electronic and print media to inform veterans, DOL employees, Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) staff, and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) of the existence of the various programs and services available to veterans interested in entrepreneurship and successful employment.

TERM

This MOU is entered into this day of July, 2000, by and between SBA, VA, and VETS/DOL. This MOU will take effect at the time of execution by all Parties and will remain in effect for one year from date of execution. The MOU may be extended for up to two years by written agreement of the Parties.

MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

The Parties agree to consult regarding any amendments or issues to be addressed. Any Party may terminate the MOU by giving thirty (30) days' advance written notice to the other Parties, and the MOU may be amended by the written agreement of all parties or their designees.

EFFECT OF AGREEMENT

This MOU does not itself authorize the expenditure or reimbursement of any funds, other than by the express terms of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the Parties to expend appropriations or enter into any contract or other obligations, other than by the express terms of this MOU.

Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted as limiting, superseding, or otherwise affecting the Parties' normal operations or decisions in carrying out its statutory or regulatory duties.

CONTACT PERSONS


Contact persons for the Parties will be:

For SBA:	Audrey Moore Office of Veterans Affairs (202) 205-7092
For VA:	Scott Denniston Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (202) 565-8124
For DOL:	Ronald Benson Office of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training (OASVET) (202) 693-4715

SIGNATURES


The signers of the MOU represent that they have the authority to make such commitments on behalf of their Agencies.

Signed by:




Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration

JUN 16 2000
(Date)



Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

8/10/2000
(Date)



Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor

JUN 23 2000
(Date)